

2013 Needs Assessment for Shelby County

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Alex Dudchock	Bonnie Bradley	Kathy Miller	Leisha Moody-Miller
Robert Gautney Supt.	Karen Stough	Kathy Wells	Leslie Steckler
Randy Fuller	Liz Stewart	Kelly Cousette	Ward Williams
Diane Daffron	Carol Williams	Cindy Greer	Shelli Thomason
John Miller	Regina Allison	Debra RouLaine	Myra Shaw
Kim Mashego D.A.	Emily Littrell	Liz Sherrell	Gwen Brown
Robert Owens Jr.	Brock Sellers	Jackie Scott	Jan Corbett
Beth Chapman	Ruth Brock	Sonja Shaneyfelt	David Calhoun
Sen. Cam Ward	Holli Casey	Jill Driver	June Romero
Sen. Slade Blackwell	Kathryn Crouthers	Keith Brown	Leslie Gilmore
Sen. J.T. Waggoner	Phil Cain	Leontyne Gulley	Nicole Barnes
Rep. Mike Hill	Jennifer Dutton	Karen Stokes	Pattie Hayes
Rep. Kurt Wallace	Angela Mosely	Yolanda Foy	Susan Culpepper
Rep. Mary Sue McClurkin	David Hall	Karen Sullivan	Cindy Wilson
Rep. April Weaver	Andrew Sparks	Maureen Alexander	
Rep. Jim McClendon	Kelli Gerchow	Ashley Townsend	
Rep. Greg Canfield	Lonnie Layton	Ashley Sayer	

Accomplishments

1. The Parent Involvement & Skills Committee provide expert presenters through their Speaker's Bureau that speak many hours at Senior Centers, parenting workshops, classrooms, PTO, etc. This year they have designed and distributed Parent Handbooks and bags to all SCBOE parents-will reach 40,000 parents. Also, launched was the 'Speak Up' tip line campaign and partnered with Sheriff's office. Developed community awareness campaign to prevent prescription/OTC medication abuse in schools, parent workshops, and senior citizens centers.

They have had Speakers from the Speaker's Bureau provide presentations, education, and prevention programs in Shelby County Schools:

- ATI-Above The Influence- program at Pelham High School
- Teen Driving Initiative-all the high schools had this program the week before their prom - worked with Shelli Thomason this project
- Parents Who Host, Lose the Most-Zina Cartwell at MMS
- Nah, I'm Good-shown at 10 middle schools in Shelby County and reached 7,200 students

- Red Ribbon Week-programs at all schools in Shelby County during October
- Too Good for Drugs-taught at MMS by Zina Cartwell
- Life Skills-taught at MMS by Zina Cartwell
- Every 15 Minutes- Chelsea High School -many hours on this project and was a collaboration among many Shelby County organizations
- Bullying-presentations in the schools
- SADD-chapters throughout Shelby County
- Several members of the Coalition Speaker's Bureau provided professional development to the SCBOE Counselors

2. The Mental Health and Safety Committee has not formally met in several months, however the goals for the year have been actively pursued. The Committee originally established three goals for the year:

1. Pursue the expansion of Wraparound Services in Shelby County;
2. Pursue establishing a Supervised Visitation Program for the County;
3. Increase awareness of Parental Alienation Syndrome.

Wraparound Services: During the past year, the Shelby County Department of Human Resources has committed a portion of their flexible spending funds to the continuation of Wraparound Services for 6 families identified as being 'at risk' for disruption or were in need of intensive in-home services to maintain an intact family unit. Grants to help in funding the WA Program have also been received from the Children's Trust Fund and Alabama Power Foundation. While serving six families is a decrease in services from prior years, a commitment has continued to find additional funds to expand the program and to also try to serve a more diverse population of families in need. New grant applications have recently been submitted as a means to pursue this endeavor.

Supervised Visitation Program: In March 2013, a grant request was submitted to the Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) for funding of a SafeHavens Supervised Visitation Program for Shelby County. This grant was collaboration among County entities such as our Shelby County government; SafeHouse; Gateway; District Court of Shelby County; HICA; Shelby County Sheriff's Office; Shelby County Dept. of Human Resources and other service providers who had an interest in this problem. The purpose of the Supervised Visitation Program is to provide trained professionals who can supervise visits between non-custodial parents and their children in domestic violence situations.

Most recently, Liz Stewart was able to attend the International Supervised Visitation Network Conference in Toronto, Canada. At this conference, it became a new goal/challenge to pursue a Supervised Visitation Program for Shelby County even if the OVW grant is not awarded to us. In this endeavor, a program would be available for all our resources in Shelby County who currently need/require supervised visitation in divorce/custody cases.

Parental Alienation Syndrome: The Mental Health and Safety Committee had the opportunity to learn more about parental alienation syndrome and the negative impact on children and parents. Parental Alienation Syndrome is the deliberate attempt by one parent to distance his/her children from ongoing contact with the other parent. Children want to have access to both parents whenever safe to do so and thus, children can be emotionally harmed when access is denied. Attempts are being made to increase awareness within our State House of Representatives and Senate regarding the detrimental effects on families when children are not allowed to have a relationship with a noncustodial parent. All three of these goals have been challenges but progress has been made on behalf of our County to improve services and help to families. The Mental Health and Safety Committee will continue to strengthen services to our families in need so children within our County can be safe and emotionally healthy.

3. The Early Care and Education Committee's focus was to strengthen families by providing parent education workshops to parents of young children (birth to age 5) and the community; collaborate with community agencies to strengthen families with young children to positively impact the family unit;

and to encourage child care providers to participate in available training and technical assistance to increase the quality of care available to children and families.

Parent Learning Sessions were offered on six Thursday nights at The Arc of Shelby County March 28th - May 2nd. The sessions were free and open to the community. Light snacks and child care was available. Students from University of Montevallo provided the child care along with committee members. The Nurturing Parenting Curriculum was used and topics included the following: Brain Development in Young Children; Respectful Communication; Family Morals, Values and Roles; and Positive Ways to Deal with Stress. Committee members representing several agencies worked together to advertise the sessions, locate a meeting space, donate snacks and door prizes, be a presenter, and assist in child care. Parent evaluations indicate that the session were a success! The committee plans to offer the session's again next year beginning in the fall. Resource's for training and technical assistance for child care providers has been gathered and will be disseminated during the fall to local day care centers and family day care homes. The goal is to inform child care providers of free and low cost training opportunities that can assist them in increasing the quality of care they provide to children and families.

4. The Education Committee worked to include the newly formed Alabaster City School system in with the CPC. The committee also focused on starting a Big Brothers/Big Sisters program in Shelby County Schools.

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First Priority

Need related to children of this county

In-home wrap-around services for at-risk youth and their families as a prevention effort to prevent further contact with court system and/or school truancy/conduct reports.

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
Gateway, Inc. Juvenile Court Services Parent Project of Shelby County DHR Bradford Health Services Chilton-Shelby Mental Health Other CPC member agencies as needed Alabama Power Children's Trust Fund Parent Project Funds	Grant money to pay for social workers, behavioral aides and counselors to work in the home. More financial support from State DHR

Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. Apply for grants -DYS grant applied for. Parent Project grant applied for. Continue to apply for funding if current grants are not funded.
2. Obtain commitments for collaborative services from CPC member providers as needed.
3. Monitor each family's progress through staffing reports being flexible enough to meet family's needs.
4. Collect data as needed for grant reporting.

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Second Priority

Need related to children of this county

After-school and summer activities for teens older than 12 years.

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
Schools Churches Municipalities City Recreation Leagues Mental Health & Safety Committee of the CPC SKY Program Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Birmingham Boys and Girls Club of Montevallo Faith-based Community Kids First Awareness Chilton-Shelby Mental Health Jefferson State Community College YMCA Family Connections Shelby Living Birmingham Parents Magazine Fresh Air Family	Activities without cost Scholarships for uniforms and activity fees Money for materials used in activities Service opportunities Volunteers

Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. Convene meeting of interested individuals to work on the solution.
2. Identify all church and local after-school and summer activities available.
3. Seek community partnerships interested in working with at-risk youth.
4. Seek funding for identified activities and mentoring programs. Plan for sustainability of program activities.

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Third Priority

Need related to children of this county

Focus on resolving a dramatic increase of unhealthy behaviors occurring in families in Shelby County.

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
DHR University of Montevallo Child Development Dept. University of Alabama Domestic Violence Coalition of Cen. AL Nora Cook, LPC Juvenile Court Early Warning Program Faith-based Community Bradford Health Services Leadership Shelby County Family Connection -Shelby Co. Drug Free Coalition Board of Education School Resource Officer Chilton-Shelby Mental Health Gateway Owens Shelby County District Attorney Safe House CHIPS Multi Disciplinary Team	Funding for publishing brochures, flyers and mail-outs for education and awareness campaigns for domestic violence issues and sexual abuse perpetrated by teens on younger children. More School Resource Officers in the schools. Speakers Bureau to educate parents on child abuse and sexual abuse.

Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. Develop and identify education plans/resources/public services announcements for parents, middle-schoolers, law enforcement and public at-large on domestic violence and sexual abuse by teens.
2. Continue to support programs or presentations that can be used in many venues for educational purposes presenting the problem behaviors that the juvenile court has recently recorded increases.
3. Engage faith-based communities in the effort.
4. Distribute educational messages and brochures at school registration and through Parent Handbook distributed by the Anti-Drug Coalition.